

Each year for Earth Day and Week, people around the world find ways to clean and protect our environment. KY EXCEL members are also celebrating our Earth by doing projects every day that help protect and enhance Kentucky's environment. Many of the members host special events. Below you will find out about what a few KY EXCEL members are doing for Earth Day. Please support these members if you have a chance!

Educating everyone about being good stewards of our environment is necessary to protect our Earth. Partner member Leggett & Platt- Winchester Spring believes Earth Day is a perfect opportunity to remind and train its employee partners on the company's ECO Initiatives. They'll review their recycling data and discuss their environmental policy and ECO project teams. This year, Leggett & Platt will work with a local elementary school to do a presentation on Earth Day, conduct a "trash-to-treasure" project that focuses on reusing items that would normally be trash and participate in roadside cleanups in the community and near their facility. To encourage participation, they will reward their employees with green-themed snacks and a stainless steel tumbler.

The Fayette County Public Schools, an Advocate member, will also engage in educating students by having a district-wide Earth Day celebration. All schools in the district submitted a student-created Earth Day poster. Copies of all 55 posters will be displayed at every school to remind students that Earth Day is not just in Kentucky, but is a global celebration. During Earth Week, one hour during the day will be chosen to shut off classroom lights, computers and plugloads. Each school will be able to track the reduction in carbon emissions using the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas calculator. The schools will participate in an Energy Challenge in which baselines are set and each school will try to reduce its electricity consumption, as much as possible, over a one week period. The district's new Green Schools Dashboard will be used to track the progress. The top three elementary schools, top two middle schools and top high school will earn a \$200 prize.



Another employer involving its employees in Earth Day activities is DRS Environmental Systems, a Partner member in KY EXCEL. The company will allow its employees to participate in cleaning up a tributary to Gunpowder Creek on and around the facility during work hours. In celebration of Earth Day, there will be activities during the morning and afternoon breaks for the employees and will provide information on local farmer's markets, natural spring cleaning products and water conservation. All employees will be given a seed paper Earth globe and be entered in a drawing for a seed kit. DRS will also hold an employee silent auction for unused equipment, supplies and other items to keep the items out of the landfill. The money raised from the auction will be donated to local charities.



KY EXCEL members are especially creative in finding ways to be environmental leaders. Partner member Aisin Automotive Casting, LLC will work with the city of London to provide a recycling dumpster

at the facility and allow Aisin's employees to bring recyclables from home. Aisin believes if they encourage their employees to recycle at home that they will be more apt to recycle at work!

Some members combine environmental education with tree planting. National Office Furniture Danville and Fordsville, both Partner members in KY EXCEL, will participate in a company-wide program called Tree of Hope. The Tree of Hope program will provide a local school with a kit that includes a large poster of a tree and 300 leaves that the kids can use to write their ideas on how they and their families are contributing to environmental protection. These leaves will then be attached to the tree poster. The participating schools will take pictures of their tree, and a random drawing will be held with the winning school receiving a basket of supplies. National Office Furniture Danville will work with Perryville Elementary School. National Office Furniture Fordsville will work with Fordsville Elementary School.

Another KY EXCEL member planning to add more trees to the landscape is the City of Hurstbourne Acres, an Advocate member. Volunteers will be planting 12 mature trees in the city's park and green spaces. They are also asking residents to plant trees, and as a way to encourage participation, the city will hold a drawing for a mature tree with free professional planting. The winner will be drawn during the city's Brightside cleanup event.

The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet is hosting an Earth Day celebration with the Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC), an Advocate member, helping plan the event. Earth Day festivities will be on April 21 at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, from 10:30 a.m. through 1 p.m. EDT. There will be several vendors at the event. For a full listing, please visit the website <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>.

As you can see, KY EXCEL members work hard to not only protect Kentucky's unique environment, but also to educate their employees and future generations on the importance of reducing their environmental impact. Thanks to all the members who provided us with details of your Earth Day activities. We hope they are very successful!